EQUALITY COLORADO

The EQUAL Times

The Newsletter of Equality Colorado

Winter '97 Vol. 5, No. 1

PO Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203 • (303) 839-5540 • (303) 839-1361 fax

IT'S TIME FOR EQUALITY.

We've waited over two decades for Civil Rights Legislation in Colorado. How much longer will it take?

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS derive from the belief that all people should be able to live as free and equal participants in this society. When bias and prejudice in areas such as housing and employment hinder the ability of many people to achieve truly equal opportunity and treatment, laws are necessary to outlaw the unjust discrimination. These civil rights laws exist to ensure equal opportunity -- the right to live free from unfair discrimination.

A consistent majority of Americans believe that gay people should not be subject to job discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Yet the fact remains that such discrimination exists, and even worse, it remains legal in 41 states, including a majority of Colorado. We saw with the Amendment 2 fight that there remains a good deal of confusion among policy makers, the media, and the general public about exactly what our community is seeking when we try to pass civil rights legislation. It comes down to this: we are not seeking an *exemption* from legitimate workplace treatment based on our job performance or company needs. We are simply asking not to have to fall victim to private bias when employment decisions are made. Wee seek to be given a fair shake at all times. Amendment 2 would have made it impossible to seek fairness had the law not been overturned. For those reasons, Equality Colorado is beginning our new campaign, **"It's Time for Equality,"** to educate around civil rights. It coincides with Rep. Gloria Leyba's employment non-discrimination bill, details of which are on p. L4. The last such bill was introduces 20 years ago. Please call Equality at (303) 839-5540 for more information on the "It's Time for Equality" campaign. Twenty years is long enough.

INSIDE!

SEE EQUALITY LOBBY'S SPECIAL INSERT

COLORADO LEGISLATURE 1997

Make your plans for **Lobby Day!** p. L1
Learn about your **legislators!** p. L2-3
Breakdown on **1997 bills** p. L4

ALOHA, COLORADO!

Decision in Hawaii case renews focus of battle in Colorado

By Patrick Steadman

Last December's ruling from the Hawaii First Circuit Court in the landmark same-sex marriage case *Baehr v. Miike* is every bit as explosive as it seems, despite having been placed on hold pending appeal. Completion of all appeals, and hopefully the issuance of the first marriage licenses, is probably less that two years away. The Hawaii Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in 1993, will have the final say in the matter. Because the driving force behind this lawsuit is a provision of the Hawaii Constitution, no appeal to the United States Supreme Court is possible. At least not in this case. But the legal issues, and the lawsuit, will have only just begun.

The case began in 1991 when three couples -- two lesbian couples and one gay male couple -- tried to apply for marriage licenses and were denied. They sued, but the trial court granted a preliminary motion to dismiss, saying (as courts had in the US for twenty years) that same-sex marriage was a contradiction in terms. The plaintiffs appealed all the way to the Hawaii Supreme Court, which sent it back to the First Circuit Court and ordered that a trial be held.

The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples was sex discrimination -- it set up different standards for whom men and women could marry. The Hawaii Constitution, like the Colorado Constitution, contains

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INTRODUCING THE EQUITY FUND

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF THE EQUITY FUND, Equality Colorado's individual donor program. An outgrowth of the "Club Program," the Equity Fund is being launched by members of our volunteer fundraising team.

The goals of the Equity Fund are to provide a stable and reliable source of yearly income to Equality Colorado and to position the agency to continue its important work in Colorado, while holding the fundraising costs of administering this program to less than 5%. By providing strong fiscal management, we hope to reduce our reliance on special events and key foundation grants by broadening our base of support from individual donors who will pledge an annual, renewable contribution.

It is our intention that by the year 2000, over 50% of the revenues needed to fund the vital services and programs of Equality Colorado will be derived from the Equity Fund. We have already begun this program with pledges

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Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, JAN. 23 • 7PM

• INTERFAITH WORSHIP •

Park Hill Congregational Church
2600 Leyden St. • Denver

All are welcome. For more information, call Laurene at Equality Colorado (303) 839-5540.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6 • 6-9 PM

• WORKPLACE WORKSHOP •

"How to Start and Grow an Employee Resource Group"
BelMar Village Country School House
797 S. Wadsworth Blvd. • Lakewood
sponsored by the Colorado Workplace Coalition
For more information call Sue at (303) 839-5540 or CWC at (303) 538-5353.

MONDAY, FEB. 17 • 8AM - 4PM

• LOBBY DAY •

"Shake Up the Legislature!"
See p. L1 for more information

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

• QUEER STUDIES CONFERENCE •

"Fifth Annual Lambda Rising Queer Studies Conference"
University of Colorado • Boulder
Brought to you by the GLBT Resource Center
For more information, call (303) 492-1377 or email glbrc@stripe.colorado.edu

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THANK YOU!

Considering all she's done for the organization, there's no good way to say "good bye" to Alicia Calderón, our one-time Director of Public Policy and the Anti-Violence Project, Community Organizer, and just about everything else you can think of. Besides, she'll still help us out when we need it, especially in the area of public policy. So we'll just say "so long," and wish her the best as a Full-Time Student!

Also, 'Tis the season to say thanks to one of the hardest-working committees around, the **Lobby Committee**. Thanks to Joanne, Bob, Marin, Paul, Theresa, David, Peter, Carmelita, Allison, Susan, Steve, Karen, and Julie for the hours put in to make for as successful a legislative session as possible.

Thanks also to Christopher, Laurie and Brooke, **Anti-Violence Project** volunteers extraordinaire!

The Equal Times is the quarterly newsletter of Equality Colorado. Equality Colorado is a non-profit statewide, grassroots lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered equal rights advocacy organization. Equality Colorado's mission is to work to secure equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. We seek to create an environment where people are respected, open dialogue is encouraged and the truth is spoken about the diversity of our families and sexual identities. We work for social change and an understanding of the interrelationship between communities.

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T. Laden Crum
Intern in Public Policy

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PO Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203
phone (303) 839-5540 fax (303) 839-1361
email: equalityco@aol.com
website: http://www.tde.com/~equality

Director's Cut by Sue Anderson

The Colorado General Assembly. Just thinking about the legislature being in session is both exciting and it sends chills down my spine. On the one hand, there is the excitement and anticipation around introducing bills to secure more protections for our communities. This year we are introducing two bills. The "hate crimes" bill would add sexual orientation, age and disability to the existing Ethnic Intimidation Act. This bill would also change the name of the offense to "hate crime." This is an important step in recognizing, increasing awareness around, and preventing hate violence against people just because of who they are. The second proactive bill is one to secure protections against employment discrimination on a statewide basis. Currently, local ordinances provide those protections in Aspen, Boulder, Crested Butte, Denver and Telluride, but people in the rest of the state have no recourse if they are fired because of their sexual orientation.

The down side of the legislative session is dealing with the continued polarization from a small group of extremist legislators who are trying to limit rights in a variety of areas. In addition to bringing back last year's divisive ban on same-sex marriages, there will also be bills to try to limit reproductive freedom, eliminate affirmative action, reform welfare and attempt to pass the parental rights amendment that was defeated at the polls last November.

The rancorous discussions and accusations that fly from both sides of these various debates around social policies are what send chills down my spine. It is seemingly impossible to have rational discussions about the issues. We all get pushed into corners and have little choice but to use the strongest words we can to get our message heard. It continues to be hard to find more humane and civil ways to determine public policy, especially around difficult social issues. Nevertheless, there are things that we all need to do to be involved in the political process and ensure that our voices are heard. Here are my top five:

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FUND LOOKS TO BE MAJOR SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR EQUALITY

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from a core group including board members and existing donors. We hope to have 100 Equity Fund donors enrolled by the end of 1997.

Our added incentive for this concentrated introduction of the Equity Fund is a generous grant from the Gill Foundation. **The Gill Foundation has made the commitment to match dollar-for-dollar all contributions.** This incentive is a tremendous boost to our new program. **Your gift is automatically doubled.**

Participation in the Equity Fund begins with a minimum, annual contribution of $250. All current "Club Members" automatically become members of the Equity Fund at their current giving levels. Our fundraising team will be hosting a series of gatherings throughout 1997 to introduce potential donors to this exciting new program. We have developed a brochure that explains the Equity Fund in greater detail. The design and printing of this brochure was done completely pro bono by Tia! Designs and C & M Press.

We hope that you will call now for more information about the Equity Fund. Many of you will hear more about it through our gatherings and existing supporters. Please call us at (303) 839-5540 to receive an invitation to one of our upcoming kick-off parties. Because of the Gill Foundation incentive match, there is clearly no better time to join than now. The urgency of our message to Colorado citizens is vital. We are counting on you to join the Equity Fund in order to help provide Equality Colorado with a secure financial means to continue our mission: ***to secure liberty and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people!***

The Gill Foundation has made the commitment to match dollar-for-dollar all contributions. Your gift is automatically doubled.

Yes! I want to support Equality Colorado's and Equality Lobby's work to secure equality for all....no exceptions.

Name_____ phone_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

❑ I am interested in Equality's monthly Club giving program. Please send me information.

❑ I would like to make a donation of:
___$10 ___$25 ___$50 ___$75 ___$100 other $___

Checks should be made payable either to *Equality Colorado*, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization to which contributions are tax-deductible or to *Equality Lobby*, a 501(c)(4) organization to which contributions are not tax-deductible.
Return this form to:
Equality Colorado or Equality Lobby, PO Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203 (303) 839-5540

Voices of Faith

by the Rev. Laurene M. Lafontaine

"Who Makes a Family?"

Over the past year or so, there has been an intense discussion about who constitutes a family, same-sex marriage and what tradition is. I find it somewhat amazing that people continue to refer to "one man and one woman" as biblical and traditional. Yet, the biblical perspective on family is much broader than "one man and one woman." The question I find myself asking is if indeed God intended only "one man and one woman" to be together in marriage and family, why is the Bible full of other types of marriages, relationships and diverse expressions of family? I have cited a number of passages which highlight the diversity found in the Bible.

The emphasis on Genesis 1 and 2 tends to be overstated in light of the whole Biblical witness. Genesis 1:27-28 reads, "So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion..." The discussion in this passage of Genesis is not about God ordaining marriage, rather it is about being created in God's image. According to the Scriptures, humankind is the only species created in the image of God. Humanity is differentiated sexually, male and female and therefore able to reproduce their kind. The category of husband and wife, which is often read into this passage, reflects a social relationship, not necessarily a biblical understanding of this passage.

In Genesis 2.24, there is the emphasis on one man and one woman "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh." There was the understanding that the man and woman were to be in a relationship that was mutual and interdependent. At least, this understanding is read back into the text by many scholars when discussing the meaning of God giving Adam a "helper."

The category of husband and wife reflects a social relationship, not necessarily a biblical understanding of this passage.

Yet, given the historic context of the patriarchy, women did not experience such mutuality and interdependence with men in their society. Women were the property of men and had no rights within the society and culture. Women were wives, slaves, and concubines.

In Bibilical times and until recently, marriage was a legal and contractual relationship in which women became "wed" to their husbands -- property. Concubines, maidservants, female slaves were all property. Maid servants provided children to the male head of the household.

There are diverse expressions of family reflected throughout the Bible. Abraham, one of patriarchs of the faith, has two wives, Sarah and Hagar; Jacob married both Rachel and Leah. In Deut 21.15, there is a discussion about a man having two wives and how the issue of inheritance for the firstborn should be dealt with. In Deut. 25.5-10, there is the whole discussion about the practice of a brother marrying the widow of his deceased brother, which is referred to as "levirate marriages."

There is nothing definitive that says that these relationships were *not* gay or lesbian relationships. Nor is there anything definitive saying that they were.

If a man went to war, defeated his enemy, took captives and then saw "among the captives a beautiful woman whom (he) desired" and wanted to marry, he was to take her to his home, shave her head, pare her nails, discard her captive's garb. And after a month of mourning for her father and mother, the man could have sex with her and then she would be his wife." (Deuteronomy 21:10-14) Women were often taken as the spoils of war and married by force as read in Judges 21 where the daughters of Shiloh are abducted by the Benjamites.

Women slaves often had children for their masters. Hagar bore Ishmael for Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 16.1-15); Bilhah bore Dan and Naphtali for Jacob and Rachel (Gen. 30-17) and Zilpah bore Gad and Asher for Jacob and Leah (Gen. 30.9-13).

Of course, there are examples of possible same-sex relationships. The story of Ruth and Naomi expresses a powerful possibility of a same-sex relationship. Naomi's husband and sons have died when Ruth declares that she will not leave Naomi. The practice of the day was the woman was to be married to a man. Yet, Ruth tells Naomi, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people; and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there I will be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you." (Ruth 1.16-17) Ruth's commitment to Naomi is profound. This passage is often quoted at heterosexual weddings as well as same-sex holy unions.

Another example of a same-sex relationship found in I Samuel 18:1ff is Jonathan and David. Jonathan and David's deep friendship is first expressed with the words "the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." Throughout I Samuel, one reads about the covenant they had with one another. Yet when Jonathan dies, David speaks so clearly about his feelings for him, "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." (II Samuel 2.26)

Now there is nothing definitive that says that these relationships were not lesbian or gay relationships. Nor is there anything definitive saying that they were. If one reads the Biblical texts honestly and openly, the possibility is there. Why shouldn't it be? Being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender is God's gift and blessing.

"One man and one woman" marriage is just one expression of family in Scripture It is not any more normative than are the multiple examples of the one man with several wives and/or concubines. What is traditional marriage then? It is important to go back through history and take a hard long look at marriages. We will find that our understanding of marriage is far removed from the historic expression of marriage. There are multiple expressions of family within the Bible. We need to be consistent how we use the Bible, particularly around issues of family and covenantal relationships.

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In the next issue, I will focus on the New Testament passages that express the diversity of family.

In the next Equal Times, *watch for a special four-page insert for Voices of Faith. If your church, synagogue, or community of faith would like to advertise in that space, call us! (303) 839-5540*

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Anti-Violence Project

Michelle Drea, Director

Hello! First, I should introduce myself. My name is Michelle Drea and I am the new director of the Anti-Violence Project. Actually, my tenure began in September of 1996. I am a recent law school graduate and Colorado transplant (from the Midwest). Thus far, I am enjoying the many challenges of my job. I would like to update everyone on what's been happening over the past few months and outline a few exciting opportunities coming up in the near future.

Current/Recent Projects

• **24 Hour Crisis Line** — maintaining 24 hour coverage of the line, expanding resources and extending outreach into the community to raise awareness of the line.

• **Prevention of Domestic Violence Poster Campaign** — a collaboration with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force. We printed posters with tear-off crisis line numbers attached to them. These posters have been placed in the bathrooms of local bars and restaurants so that victims can access them discreetly. We are also sending posters to service providers. Since the campaign began, crisis calls have increased markedly.

• **Cheesman Park** — working with the District Six Police Department, Cheesman Neighborhood Association and the Mayor's Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee on ways to improve park safety.

• **Aurora Police Department** — working with the Aurora Police Department and Gateway, their domestic violence shelter, on ways to respond to same-sex domestic violence. This includes training opportunities and collaboration on policies and procedures.

• **Hate Crimes Bill** — assisting with the lobbying effort on behalf of the proposed hate crimes bill (see p. L4 for more on this bill).

Future Projects:

• We have applied for funding from the Violence Against Women Act that would provide for a **Women's Outreach Program** in early spring.

• **Volunteer Training** in spring for people interested in volunteering on the crisis line.

• **Clinics** on different legal topics will be a monthly occurrence by late spring. One example of a legal clinic would be Obtaining a Restraining Order.

• Opportunities for **interns** who are interested in working for an end to violence.

• Collaboration with **Colorado Outward Bound** on a three-day program in late August for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I'm very excited about the opportunity to expand the Anti-Violence Project to the point where it can serve as a resource to everyone in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community who needs it.

"How in the world do I become an AVP volunteer?"

Since you asked this question, you obviously recognize that the AVP couldn't function without volunteers, which would mean that victims of violence may go unassisted.

The needs of victims vary widely depending on what kind of violence they suffer. Victims of hate violence are often in a much different position than domestic abuse victims. What they have in common, however, is the need for a safe space to talk about the violence and a strong organization to help them get the services they need.

We need volunteers to help us out with:
- crisis line management
- research projects
- legal clinics
- office help

Please call Michelle at (303) 839-5540 to sign up to volunteer. Help us stop the violence.

AVP 24-hour Crisis Line Number
(303) 852-5094

Colorado Marriage Rights

Baehr v. Miike's impact beyond marriage rights

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the Equal Rights Amendment. The court ruled that if the state could not demonstrate a "compelling state interest" at trial, then the marriage law would be declared unconstitutional as applied to same-sex couples. This was the burden the state had to bear at trial -- coming up with a compelling interest.

The state argued that a compelling interest in preventing same-sex marriage could be found in the need to protect and preserve the "traditional nuclear family" as the ideal unit for child rearing. Their witnesses made such assertions; however, they also agreed that same-sex couples were able to raise children just fine, thank you, and that the outcome of their childrearing was similar to other families. They also agreed that the plaintiff's expert witness was very knowledgeable in the field. The trial court judge, Kevin Chang, relied on all the experts in his ruling rejecting the state's arguments.

The fact that this battle was fought and won on this issue of child rearing, with expert witnesses on *both sides* saying that gay and lesbian families can be good families, makes this case all the more valuable for GLBT families in other areas of domestic relations law.

The state of Hawaii obviously felt that the child rearing argument was their strongest. The flaws of this argument are legion. First, there's the fact that countless marriages take place every day involving couples who do not want or cannot have children. Second, the idea of the government creating a hierarchy of family structures is insulting not only to gay and lesbian families, but also to single-parent and blended families. All of this should have been enough to defeat the state's reliance on child rearing for their defense of discrimination. But the fact that this battle was fought and won on this issue of child rearing, with expert witnesses on *both sides* saying that gay and lesbian families can be good families, makes this case all the more valuable for GLBT families in other areas of domestic relations law, in Hawaii and nationwide.

Once couples are married in Hawaii, the next round of litigation will begin. Can these marriages travel interstate and will they be recognized? What about couples from out of state traveling to Hawaii to get married? (Eat your heart out, Las Vegas!)

Already, many states have passed laws, at Congress's invitation, saying they won't recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. Despite President Clinton's signature on the offensively titled Defense of Marriage Act (the congressional attempt to endorse these laws and insulate such states from lawsuits), difficult constitutional questions are presented which must be resolved in court (have they even seen the Full Faith and Credit Act?). And because this is a matter of the federal constitution that binds our nation together into a republic of fifty states, these lawsuits will eventually reach the United States Supreme Court.

In the meantime, don't rule out the Hawaii legislature as a variable in the equation. They've been struggling with the issue ever since the initial Supreme Court ruling. There have already been attempts at a constitutional amendment, which could overturn the court's ruling and define marriage in the constitution where changing it becomes much more of a challenge.

For those of you would-be June brides, don't book your flight to Honolulu just yet.* There's still are still the inevitable appeals and millions of dollars in years of litigation after that. But once the marriage licenses are issued, a group such as the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project will probably be recruiting some volunteers for a little experiment in constitutional law. Hawaii is a huge step for our movement, but only the beginning of the Great Marriage Debate.

**Editor's note: just because Hawaii isn't issuing licenses yet, doesn't mean you can't get married. This summer, Equality Colorado is preparing to sponsor our second June Wedding. Stay tuned for more details, or call us at (303) 839-5540.*

Help achieve **equal marriage rights** from your kitchen table!

Call Equality Colorado to find out more about the **Aloha, Colorado action kit.**

EQUALITY LOBBY

LEGISLATURE 97

A look at Colorado's General Assembly

A special insert of ***The EQUAL Times***

Lobby Day

Can you spare a day to help change your world?

Imagine it.

One hundred gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and supportive Coloradans, representing all sixty-five legislative districts in the state, coming together to educate the General Assembly and the public about basic equal rights. Fighting myths. Taking action. Making a difference.

It can happen.

LOBBY DAY is your chance to shake up the legislature. If we are to have a shot at winning across-the-board support for our issues, we'll have to show them who we are and where we're from -- the diversity of our communities. And this year more than ever, we have some major bills we'll be working on.

- A statewide civil rights bill to protect Coloradans from sexual-orientation discrimination.
- A bill to add sexual orientation, age, and disability to the state's Ethnic Intimidation Act, renaming the offense a Hate Crime.
- We'll have to fight a bill to outlaw recognition of out-of-state same-sex marriages - for the second year in a row.

Monday, February 17, 1997 is the day to put aside on your calendar to come to Denver. This represents the first time that Equality Lobby is attempting such an ambitious project, and **we need your help!** The day will include:

- A **breakfast training** about the legislative process with Equality's lobbyists;
- A **thorough discussion** of the bills we are supporting and opposing in the 1997 legislative session;
- **Active lobbying** of every Representative and Senator on our issues during lunchtime and in the afternoon;
- For those who can't make it, a **day-long phone blitz** to their legislators that same day.

So save the date. Bring your friends. We can help you out with housing and travel arrangements if necessary.

Lobby Day is your day. Please call us for more information at **(303) 839-5540** or email Equalityco@aol.com.

Lobby Day 1997 Response Form

Please FAX this form to (303) 839-1361 or MAIL it to Lobby Day, Equality Lobby, PO Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203

YES!

o Yes! I'd love to come to Lobby Day!

o I would love to carpool. Please contact me about this.

o I need housing for the following nights: **SAT 2/15** **SUN 2/16** **MON 2/17**

SORRY!

o Sorry, I can't come to Lobby Day. BUT I pledge to **call my Senator and Representative** on February 17.

Name(s): **Phone:**

Address:

LEGISLATURE '97

To contact your State Senator:
Colorado Senate State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203
Senate Democrats: (303) 866-4865
Fax: (303) 866-4543
Senate Republicans: (303) 866-4866
Fax: (303) 866-2012

State Senators

Name (party) district area
Address
Phones

Alexander, Ben (R) 6 SW Colo. counties
PO Box 1285, Montrose 81402
Cap: 866-4866 Res: (970) 249-3211

Ament, Don (R) 1 NE Colo. counties
Route 1 Box 142, Iliff 80736
Cap: 866-4866 Res: (970) 522-8205

Arnold, Ken (R) 23 Adams, Boulder
10187 Julian Way, Westminster 80030
Cap: 866-4866 Res: 466-2666

Bishop, Tilman (R) 7 Mesa
2697 G Road, Grand Junction 81506
Cap: 866-3077 Res: (970) 242-9230
Denver Res: 399-7766

Blickensderfer, Tom (R) 26 Arapahoe, Jefferson
9 Parkway Dr. Englewood 80110
JBC: 866-2587 Res: 758-0146

Chlouber, Ken (R) 4 Chaffee, Delta, Park
220 W. 8th Fremont, Gunnison
Leadville 80461 Hinsdale, Lake, Pitkin

Coffman, Mike (R) 27 Arapahoe
PO Box 440740, Aurora 80044
Cap: 866-4883 • Bus: 671-6402 • Res: 766-0918

Congrove, Jim (R) 19 Jefferson
PO Box 357, Arvada 80001
Cap: 866-4866 • Bus: 851-8729 • Res: 940-1919

Dennis, Gigi (R) 5 San Juan Valley,
247 E. Idaho Spgs Dr. Las Animas, Pueblo,
Pueblo West 81007 Huerfano
Cap: 866-4866 Res: (719) 547-9330

Duke, Charles (R) 9 El Paso
1711 Woodmoor Dr., Monument 80132
Cap: 866-4866 Res: (719) 481-9289

Feeley, Michael (D) 21 Jefferson
13486 W. Center Dr., Lakewood 80228
Cap: 866-4865 Res: 987-1354

Hernandez, Rob (D) 34 Denver
4600 W. 36th Ave., Denver 80212
Cap: 866-4865 Res: 458-1011

Hopper, Sally (R) 13 Boulder, Jefferson
21649 Cabrini Blvd. Clear Creek, Gilpin
Golden 80401 Summit
Cap: 866-4873 Res: 526-0785

Johnson, Joan (D) 24 Adams
7951 York St. #3, Denver 80229
Cap: 866-4863 Res: 288-9237

Lacy, Elsie (R) 28 Arapahoe
11637 E. Mexico Ave., Aurora 80012
JBC: 866-2587 • Cap: 866-4866 • Res: 750-5943

Linkhart, Doug (D) 31 Denver
38 S. Clarkson St., Denver 80209
Cap: 866-4865 Res: 733-3569

Martinez, Bob (D) 25 Adams
6462 E. 63rd Ave., Commerce City 80022
Cap: 866-4865 Res: 287-8111

Matsunaka, Stan (D) 15 Larimer
2881 N. Monroe, Loveland 80538
Cap: 866-4865 Res: (970) 635-0384

Mutzebaugh, Richard (R) 30 Arapahoe, Douglas
9965 S. Wyecliff Dr. Elbert, Jefferson
Highlands Ranch 80126
Cap: 866-4866 Res: 791-4063

Norton, Tom (R) 16 Weld
1204 50th Ave., Greeley 80634
Cap: 866-3342

Pascoe, Pat (D) 32 Denver
744 Lafayette St., Denver 80218
Cap: 866-4865 Res: 832-8865

Perlmutter, Ed (D) 20 Jefferson
370 17th St. #2600, Denver 80202
Cap: 866-4865 • Bus: 825-0800 • Res: 278-8426

Phillips, Terry (D) 17 Boulder
597 Manorwood Ln., Louisville 30027
Cap: 866-4866 • Res: 666-9488

Powers, Ray (R) 10 El Paso
5 N. Marksheffel Rd., Colorado Springs, 80929
Cap: 866-4866 Res: (719) 596-1055
Fax: (719) 596-2301 Denver Res: 329-6926

Reeves, Peggy (D) 14 Larimer
1931 Sandalwood Ln., Ft. Collins, 80526
Cap: 866-4865 Res: (970) 482-8952

Rizzuto, James (D) 2 SW corner of Colo.
Box 215, La Junta 81050
JBC: 866-2587 • Cap: 866-4865 • Denv. Res: 394-4018
Bus: (719) 384-4465 Res: (719) 384-8388

Rupert, Dorothy (D) 18 Boulder
680 Yale Rd., Boulder 80303
Cap: 866-4872 Res: 494-0568

Schroeder, Bill (R) 22 Jefferson
4420 S. Braun Ct., Morrison 80465
Cap: 866-4866 • Bus: 688-3100 x272 • Res: 697-8321

Tanner, Gloria (D) 33 Denver
2150 Monaco Pky., Denver 80207
Cap: 866-4864 • Bus: 388-2260 • Res: 355-7288

Tebedo, MaryAnne 12 El Paso, Teller
1916 Snyder Ave., Colorado Springs, 80909
Cap: 866-4880 Res: (719) 471-2561

Thiebaut, Bill (D) 3 Pueblo
PO Box 262, Pueblo 81002
Cap: 866-4865 Res: (719) 544-3822

Wattenberg, Dave (R) 8 NW corner of Colo.
Drawer 797, Walden 80480
Cap: 866-4866 Res: (970) 723-4577

Weddig, Frank (D) 29 Arapahoe
15818 E. 8th Circle, Aurora 80011
Cap: 866-4865 Res: 366-8762

Wells, Jeffrey (R) 11 El Paso
3166 Oak Creek Drive E., Colorado Springs 80906
Cap: 866-3341 Bus: (719) 471-4110

Wham, Dottie (R) 35 Arapahoe, Denver
2790 S. High St., Denver 80210
Cap: 866-4866 Res: 757-0615

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State Representatives LEGISLATURE 97

To write to your Representative:
Colorado House of Representatives
State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203

Adkins, Jeanne (R) 64 Douglas
8517 N. Pinewood Dr. Parker 80134
Cap: 866-2936 Res: 841-8829

Agler, Vickie (R) 28 Jefferson
10289 W. Burgundy Ave., Littleton 80127
Cap: 866-2939 Res: 973-1987

Alexander, Kay (R) 58 SW Colo.; Montrose
16387 6030 Rd., Montrose 81401
Cap: 866-2955 • Res: 970-249-5862 • Den: 756-8113

Allen, Debbie (R) 43 Arapahoe
923 S. Ouray, Aurora 80017
Cap: 866-2942 • Res: 695-4920 • Bus: 360-8515

Anderson, Norma (R) 30 Jefferson
10415 W. Hampden, Lakewood 80227
Cap: 866-3937 Res: 986-0397

Arrington, Barry (R) 27 Jefferson
5622 Tabor Ct., Arvada 80002
Cap: 866-2962 • Res: 420-4655 • Bus: 751-2900

Bacon, Bob (D) 53 Larimer
1706 Hinry St., Ft. Collins 80526
Cap: 866-2917 (970) 221-4552

Berry, Chuck (R) 21 El Paso
314 Pine Ave., Colorado Springs 80906
Cap: 866-2346 • Res: 719-634-6328 • Bus: 719-473-3800

Berry, Gayle (R) 55 Mesa
3049 E. 1/4 Rd., Grand Junction 81504
Cap: 855-2908 • Res: 970-434-4121 • Bus: 719-434-9520

Chavez, Nolbert (D) 5 Denver
4619 Tejon St., Denver 80211
Cap: 866-2925 Res: 477-7426

Clarke, Benjamin (D) 7 Denver
1800 Monaco Pky., Denver 80220
Cap: 866-2909 Res: 322-2611

Dean, Doug (R) 18 El Paso
6463 McNichols Ct., Colorado Springs 80918
Cap: 866-2960 • Res: 719-598-4920 • Bus: 719-598-2175

Dyer, Jim (D) 59 SW Colo.; Durango
Box 5225, Durango 81302
Cap: 866-2914 • Res: 970-259-1942 • Den: 263-8376

Entz, Lewis (R) 60 San Luis Valley
1016 North 11 Lane, Hooper 81136
Cap: 866-2963 Bus: 719-392-3861

Epps, Mary Ellen (R) 19 El Paso
217 Dexter St., Colorado Springs 80911
Cap: 866-2946 Res: 719-392-3861

Faatz, Jeanne (R) 1 Denver, Jefferson
2903 S. Quitman St., Denver 80236
Cap: 866-2966 Res: 935-6915

George, Russell (R) 57 Garfield, Moffat, 1300
E. 7th St., Rifle 81650 Pitkin, Rio Blanco
Cap: 866-2945 • Res: 970-625-3778 • Den: 813-9139

Gordon, Ken (D) 9 Arapahoe, Denver
2323 S. Jackson, Denver 80210
Cap: 866-2967 • Res: 753-1383

Gotlieb, Dorothy (R) 10 Arapahoe, Denver
4123 S. Rosemary Way, Denver 80237
Cap: 866-2910 Res: 770-1841

Grampsas, Tony (R) 25 Jefferson
3237 S. Hiwan Dr., Evergreen 80439
Cap: 866-2957 • JBC: 866-2061 • Res: 674-7883

Grossman, Daniel (D) 6 Arapahoe, Denver
450 Dahlia St., Denver 80220
Cap: 866-2015 Res: 355-4219

Hagedorn, Bob (D) 42 Arapahoe
11633 E. 6th Pl., Aurora 80010
Cap: 866-3911 Res: 367-1994

Johnson, Steve (R) 49 Larimer, Weld
5928 Lakeview Dr., Ft. Collins 80526
Cap: 866-2907 • Res: 970-223-8045 • Bus: 970-667-9230

June, Vi (D) 35 Adams
7500 Wilson Ct., Westminster 80030
Cap: 866-2843 Res: 429-1161

Kaufman, William (R) 51 Larimer
4056 Davidia Ct., Loveland 80538
Cap: 866-2947 • Res: 970-669-4009 • Bus: 970-667-8888

Keller, Maryanne (D) 24 Jefferson
4325 Iris St., Wheat Ridge 80033
Cap: 866-5522 Res: 741-4681

Kreutz, Martha (R) 37 Arapahoe
6023 S. Bellaire Way, Littleton 80121
Cap: 866-5510 Res: 741-4681

Lamborn, Doug (R) 20 Douglas, El Paso
1155 Kelly Johnson Blvd #111, Colorado Springs 80920
Cap: 866-2924 • Res: 719-481-3387 • Bus: 719-471-1441

Lawrence, Joyce (R) 45 Pueblo
47 Briargate Terrace, Pueblo 81001
Cap: 866-2922 Res: 719-543-5401

Leyba, Gloria (D) 2 Denver
1014 Lipan St., Denver 80204
Cap: 866-2911 Res: 623-5676

Mace, Frana (D) 4 Denver
4990 Green St., Denver 80221
Cap: 866-2954 Res: 433-5093

May, Ron (R) 15 El Paso
4980 Daybreak Cir. N, Colorado Springs 80917
Cap: 866-5525 Res: 719-591-8620

McElhany, Andy (R) 17 El Paso
95 W. Boulder, Colorado Springs 80903
Cap: 966-3069 Res: 719-4739400

McPherson, Gary (R) 40 Arapahoe
3300 S. Parker Rd. Ste. 101, Aurora 80014-3520
Cap: 866-2944 • Res: 690-8252 • Bus: 369-9902

Miller, Carl (D) 61 Chaffee, Gunnison, Hinsdale
111 W. 3rd, Leadville 80461 Park, Lake, Pitkin, Teller
Cap: 866-2952 Res: 719-486-0636

Morrison, Marcy (R) 22 El Paso
302 Sutherland Pl., Manitou Springs 80829
Cap: 866-2937 Res: 719-486-0636

Musgrave, Marilyn (R) 65 NE corner of Colo.
15484 Rd. 18 1/2, Ft. Morgan 80701
Cap: 866-3706 • Res: 970-867-3245 • Bus: 970-867-4640

Nichol, Alice (D) 34 Adams
891 E. 71st Ave., Denver 80229
Cap: 86602931 Res: 287-7742

Owen, David (R) 48 Weld
2722 Buena Vista Dr., Greeley 80631
Cap: 866-2943 • JBC: 866-2586 • Res: 970-330-9600

Pankey, Phil (R) 38 Arapahoe, Jefferson
200 E. Colfax Rm. 271, Denver 80203
Cap: 866-2953 Res: 798-5873

Paschall, Mark (R) 29 Jefferson
7903 W. 62nd Way, Arvada 80004
Cap: 866-2950 Pgr: 609-4500

Pfiffner, Penn (R) 23 Jefferson
38 S. Zinnia Way, Lakewood 80228
Cap: 866-2951 • Res: 988-3717 • Bus: 233-7731

Reeser, Jeannie (D) 32 Adams
9883 Pearl St., Thornton 80229
Cap: 866-2964 Res: 452-1838

Romero, Gilbert (D) 46 Pueblo
1128 Catalpa St., Pueblo 81001
Cap: 866-2968 • JBC: 866-2587 • Res: 719-544-2420

Salaz, Mike (R) 47 Baca, Bent, Crowley
PO Box 136, Cheraw 81030 Las Animas, Otero
Cap: 866-2948 • Res: 719-384-9011 Pueblo

Saliman, Todd (D) 11 Boulder
701 Pearl St. #3, Boulder 80302
Cap: 866-5524 • Res: 444-0727 • Bus: 449-0858

Schauer, Paul (R) 39 Arapahoe
7255 S. Jackson Ct., Littleton 80122
Cap: 866-2935 • Res: 770-3872 • Bus: 744-5638

Schwarz, Larry (R) 44 Custer, Fremont, Teller
686 Custer Cty. Rd. 297, Wetmore 81253 Pueblo
Cap: 866-3540 Res: 719-635-8691

Sinclair, William (R) 16 El Paso
3007 Chelton Dr., Colorado Springs 80909-1008
Cap: 866-2965 Res: 719-8691

Smith, Matt (R) 54 Delta, Mesa
3074 Alegre Ct., Grand Junction 81504
Cap: 866-3068 • Res: 970-434-4727 • Bus: 970-242-2636

Snyder, Carol (D) 33 Adams
State Capitol, 200 E. Colfax, Denver 80203
Cap: 866-5523 • Res: 452-7043 • Bus: 592-9000

Sullivant, Bryan (R) 62 Clear Creek, Gilpin
293 Sherwood Tr., Breckenridge 80424 Jefferson, Summit
Cap: 866-2916 • Res: 970-453-4954 • Bus: 303-792-1542

Swenson, Bill (R) 12 Boulder
32 Princeton Cir., Longmont 80503
Cap: 866-2920 Res: 776-0846

Takis, Stephanie (D) 36 Adams
1927 Ironton St., Aurora 80010 • Cap: 866-2912

Tate, Penn (D) 8 Denver
1050 17th #1420, Denver 80265-1401
Cap: 866-2959 • Res: 320-4665 • Bus: 623-3252

Taylor, Jack (R) 56 Eagle, Garfield, Grand
Box 5656, Steamboat Springs 80477 Jackson, Routt
Cap: 866-2949 • Res: 970-879-1880 • Bus: 970-879-3600

Tool, Steve (R) 52 Larimer
3501 Winslow Dr., Ft. Collins 80525
Cap: 866-4569 Res: 970-223-9003

Tucker, Shirleen (R) 26 Jefferson
615 S. Eldridge St., Lakewood 80228
Cap: 866-2923 Res: 988-0118

Tupa, Ron (D) 14 Boulder
70 S. Boulder Cir. #7031, Boulder 80303
Cap: 866-2915 Res: 494-6791

Udall, Mark (D) 13 Boulder
6255 Simmons Dr., Boulder 80303
Cap: 866-2938 Bus: 494-9637

Veiga, Jennifer (D) 3 Denver, Arapahoe
765 S. Grant St., Denver 80209
Cap: 866-02921 • Res: 722-4940 • Bus: 863-7700

Williams, Suzanne (D) 41 Arapahoe
12314 E. Bates Cir., Aurora 80014
Cap: 866-2919 Res: 751-2396

Williams, Tambor (R) 50 Weld
1024 8th St., Greeley 80631
Cap: 866-2929 • Res: 352-2780 • Bus: 970-353-5000

Young, Brad (R) 63 Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Yuma
8 Sage Ln., Lamar 81052 Elbert, Kiowa, Lincoln,
Cap: 866-2940 • Res: 719-336-7967 Kit Carson, Prowers

Zimmerman, Paul (D) 31 Adams, Boulder, Weld
12943 Columbine Cir., Thornton 80241
Cap: 866-2918 Res: 457-8464

LEGISLATURE '97

Legislative Issues

Civil Rights

Rep. Gloria Leyba (D-Denver) has agreed to introduce a bill that would extend protection from sexual-orientation discrimination in employment to all Coloradans. We can already imagine the fear-based rhetoric that will come from the opposition to this bill. Special Rights and Homosexual Agenda and all that.

But much of the opposition to this bill will come not from anti-gay sentiment as much as it will come from "so-called tolerance" sentiment. Opposition from this corner is not nearly as ill-willed as the other, but its effects can be just as damaging. And often these voices sound like the voices of tolerance.

> "I don't care what you do in your bedroom, but you shouldn't bring it to work."
>
> "Gay people can hide their sexual orientation, unlike people of color who need civil rights laws."
>
> "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

The common theme of each of these arguments is that as long as gay people are silent about their sexual orientation, they won't have any problems. But we know that this is simply not the case. The idea that being forced to live behind a shroud of secrecy is somehow "not a problem" is a result of heterosexual privilege. For men and women who by their nature "act gay," or "appear gay," no amount of silence will protect them from maltreatment. Worst of all, it upholds the notion that homo- and bisexuality are negative traits and worthy of discrimination. It's one thing for an employer to believe that. It's quite another for him or her to act on that belief by firing, refusing to promote, or creating an intolerable workplace environment for employees who may be gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

The bill would also protect heterosexuals from any anti-straight bias that might exist among employers.

Keep your eyes open for this bill as it travels to committees and hopefully to the floor of the House.

Equal Marriage Rights

Once again, it looks like we're under attack. If the far right has its way, same-sex couples who get married in one state, assuming that is one day possible, will be considered "unmarried" once they enter Colorado.

As of press time for *The Equal Times*, no anti-marriage bill has yet been introduced. However, last year's sponsor of HB 1291, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Ft. Morgan), has promised to introduce it and it would be a major surprise if it weren't introduced at all. In any case it behooves us to prepare for the bill rather than get caught unawares.

Four factors make the introduction (and passage) of an anti-marriage bill likely:
- last year's passage of the bill in both legislative houses;
- a legislature thought to be EVEN MORE CONSERVATIVE! than last year's;
- the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" signed by President Clinton;
- the ruling in *Baehr v. Miike* (see p. 1).

A few factors are working against the bill:
- Governor Romer vetoed this bill last year.
- Even with DOMA, the bill is likely unconstitutional.
- It may cost the state money, just like Amendment 2.
- It's mean.

Last year the bill passed despite strong opposition from both Democratic and Republican legislators. Governor Romer received an unbelievably large number of constituent contacts and media interest in the bill when it went to his desk.

Hate Crimes

For the third consecutive year, Equality Lobby will work to strengthen Colorado's Ethnic Intimidation Law by adding disability, age, and sexual orientation to the law. Senate Bill 100, introduced in January by Sen. Dorothy Rupert (D-Boulder), would also change the name of the offense to "Hate Crime."

In the past, some confusion has existed over what constitutes a hate crime. The current definition is actually quite straightforward:

When a person assaults another or destroys property "because of" that individual's race, religion, color, ancestry or national origin the perpetrator can be charged with committing a hate crime. The mere fact that the offender is biased against the victim's race, religion, national origin, and/or ancestry (or sexual orientation) does not mean that a hate crime has occurred. Rather, the offender's criminal act must have been motivated, in whole or in part, by his or her bias.

In 1995, the Hate Crimes bill was introduced by Rep. (now Senator) Ken Chlouber (R-Leadville). The bill passed the Judiciary Committee but was sent to the finance committee to die. Last year, the bill passed two committees, but was withdrawn before a vote on the floor could be taken. This year we are optimistic that the bill can pass the Senate and be sent to the House. In order to pass either house, strong and clear constituent pressure will be required.

Other Bills

Above are the bills which Equality Lobby has contracted our professional lobbyists to work on this session. There are many other bills, of course, which we will be monitoring closely. Here's a breakdown of some of those bills:

Rep. Alice Nichol will introduce a bill at end of the month concerning needle exchange programs. The bill would create an exemption from current drug paraphernalia laws to allow anti-HIV needle exchange programs to operate legally in Colorado.

HB 1179, sponsored by Rep. Mark Paschall, would create a study of "issues concerning the family." Cosponsors of this bill include some of the most conservative members of the House, including Dean, Lamborn, Arrington, Musgrave, and Sinclair.

Remember the Parental Rights Amendment the voters rejected last November? HB 1008, Lamborn's Parental Role in Education bill, would try to address some of the specifics hidden within the overbroad PRA. It would prohibit psychological testing of students or questions about a student's personal beliefs or practices, or about abuse they may have suffered at home.

Two anti-choice bills are also under consideration:
- HB 1136, Rep. Barry Arrington's attempt to outlaw "partial birth" abortions (a procedure that is rarely used) even in situations of crisis. Sponsored in the Senate by Arnold.
- HB 1150 by Rep. Doug Lamborn: creates a strict regulatory scheme for dealing with "post-viability abortions" as determined by the doctor. Sponsored in the Senate by Tebedo.

Also, the legislature will be considering welfare reform legislation and proposals to move the state's Medicaid population into managed care.

The most important weapon we have in favor or against any given bill is the ability to harness strong and clear constituent pressure. This pressure must come from gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people as well as fair-minded allies from all walks of life. Please make it a practice to write and call your elected officials. Register for and attend Lobby Day. And to join our activist network, simply contact us at (303) 839-5540 or equalityco@aol.com. Our voices need to be heard on the Capitol this session and beyond.

Out and About: News and Action

GLSTN CONFERENCE COMES WESTWARD

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network will hold its first annual national conference in that bastion of goodwill towards gays, Utah. The conference will be Friday and Saturday, March 21-22 in Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City, you'll remember, was the site of the recent controversy around whether all clubs should be banned from high schools rather than let the Gay/Straight Alliance meet. For details on what promises to be an outstanding conference, contact GLSTN at (212) 727-0135.

WISCONSIN JUDGE ESTABLISHES PATTERN

The same federal judge that dismissed Jamie Nabozny's suit of school officials who failed to protect him after years of verbal and physical assaults has ruled that students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison no longer have to pay for student groups that they do not support.

Madison U.S. District Court Judge John Shabaz's ruling was notable for its explicit reference to the two gay and lesbian campus organizations. According to Shabaz, the current system violated the First Amendment rights of students "who hold a differing political and ideological position" to certain groups.

UW-Madison has decided to appeal the decision. If the decision stands, the university will need to implement a fee policy where students can opt-out of subsidizing those organizations they do not support. It appears that students would receive a list of all the student organizations who are requesting funding from the university and the student would select only those organizations that they want to see funded.

Oh, by the way, Shabaz's ruling in the Nabozny case was overturned by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

MEDICAID CUTS LOOMING?

As the Clinton administration develops its FY 1998 budget proposal for public release early in February, it is expected that President Clinton will call for deep cuts in programs such as Medicaid, a vital safety net for people living with HIV/AIDS. The president has committed to balancing the budget by the year 2002, placing enormous pressure on the Medicaid program as well as Medicare and discretionary spending programs including the Ryan White CARE Act. As a result, many HIV/AIDS programs may not receive increases and others might experience only modest increases.

The administration is considering cutting as much as $30 billion from Medicaid over the next six years by imposing a per-capita cap on Medicaid spending. While this is a less severe proposal than a Medicaid block grant to states, this "per-capita cap" could threaten the health care available to people with HIV/AIDS in the Medicaid program. Since HIV disease is costly to cover, states could lose money by covering HIV/AIDS patients with the reduced federal contribution. In order to save money, states might be forced to change benefit packages in ways such as eliminating optional benefits like prescription drug coverage.

ACTION Write to:
The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House • Washington, DC 20500

Tell him that now is no time to retreat from his record of leadership on protecting Medicaid. It is unacceptable to balance the federal budget by undercutting the federal response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and health care, housing and social services necessary to keep people with HIV/AIDS alive.

Do not cut or restructure the Medicaid program. *Significant changes in federal funding for Medicaid* will threaten other health care services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

SPRINGS BUSINESSMAN ON THE ATTACK

The Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph ran an ad for Bircham's Office Products which includes Ed Bircham's opinion on same-sex marriages. The ad reads "Here we go again, another liberal judge deciding he is God. Surely he will have his day in court. It's called Judgement Day! The homosexuals say "If we love someone then we have the right to marry them." What comes next? Multiple partners, brothers marrying brothers, or sisters marrying sisters or cousins! Come on, America, put a stop to this madness." The ad then lists Bircham's "real ad."

ACTION Write to Ed Bircham and tell him you refuse to shop at Bircham's Office Products as long as he continues to use his business to spread his offensive ideas. Write to: Ed Bircham, Bircham's Office Products, 3004 N. Nevada, Colorado Springs, CO. Phone 719-630-8600.

MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHER DIES

Gerry Crane, a gay music teacher in Byron Center, MI, died last month after a heart attack. He was 32 years old. After rescuing a moribund music program at the school near Kalamazoo, Crane was asked about his commitment ring in the fall of 1995. He responded with the truth about his marriage to his husband, Randy Block. For the remainder of the school year, he faced relentless harassment, including a full school board meeting where it was voted that homosexuals were "unfit role models" as well as the sending of anti-gay hate videotapes to all of his students' families by a colleague. At year's end, he accepted a one-year severance package rather than return and continue to face this harassment.

Looking to reach over

10,000

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Call (303) 839-5540 for all the details.

GLBT Legal Coalition

Are you an attorney? Law student? Do you know and love someone with a background in the law? Then the GLBT Legal Coalition wants you!

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Legal Coalition is a joint venture of Equality Colorado, Colorado Legal Initiatives Project (CLIP), Colorado Lesbian and Gay Law Association (CLGLA), and the ACLU of Colorado, to try to better serve the gay community. Our goal is to assist each other in working towards equality by sharing information and resources and sponsoring collaborative projects.

Each organization has specific needs that those with experience in the law can help us with:

- **Colorado Legal Initiatives Project** has accepted several cases for potential litigation and continues to screen incoming legal matters. CLIP will file some cases in-house, but also needs assistance from cooperating attorneys. CLIP seeks attorneys willing to provide pro bono assistance in GLBT civil rights litigation. CLIP is also seeking additional participants for its case review panel.

- **Equality Lobby** needs legal testimony research on the bills it is sponsoring and fighting in the Colorado General Assembly.

- **The Anti-Violence Project** needs assistance in developing a resource referral list, conducting legal clinics, and establishing a list of attorneys to help with victim legal assistance.

- **The ACLU of Colorado** seeks to expand its list of cooperating attorneys who are interested in issues that affect the GLBT community. The ACLU also would like to hear from law students interested in internships and volunteer opportunities.

Please call us at (303) 839-5540 and we'll send you a quick survey to fill out so that we can plug you into our efforts. Thanks!

Around the State Snow Bunny Edition

This page of the *Equal Times* looks at what's going on politically (and otherwise) in the GLBT community around Colorado. We strongly believe in supporting activists' efforts throughout the state, and strengthening our sense of community.

ASPEN GAY SKI WEEK

20th anniversary

Saturday, January 25 - Saturday, February 1

Boarding. Skiing. **5,000 exciting people.** The Aspen Party. X-Country Skiing. *Gay Comedy. 70's Disco Night.* ***The Aspen Gay and Lesbian Film Fest.*** The Aspen Ballet Benefit for the Elton John Foundation. The 2nd Annual Coors Light Aspen Mountain "Bump Your Buns" Costume Party and Competition. Tea Dances. Gay Boarderfest. **The Aspen Human Rights Summit.** Raging Cool Fun. Special Women's Events. And much more.

For more information, call 800-984-8863

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copper mountain

featuring:
live colorado-grown entertainment by singer karen capaldi and ufo comediennes nancy norton, edith weiss and deanie pate

For more information:
(303) 433-8979 or
email GirlzNSnow@aol.com

The most famous parts of Colorado are not the Mint and LoDo, but rather our fantastic mountain communities. For the most part, these communities are relatively progressive on gay issues: three of the five municipalities in the state with gay civil rights ordinances are Aspen, Crested Butte, and Telluride. Without question, each of these towns has its own distinct culture and flair, and just about every one has some kind of gay community.

Directory of GLBT Organizations in Colorado's Mountain Towns

Aspen: Large and active glbt community. The first town in Colorado to pass a gay rights ordinance. Every year for two decades, Aspen has been the host of Aspen Gay Ski Week, and this year should be the largest yet.

Aspen Gay and Lesbian Community Fund: PO Box 3143 • Aspen, CO 81612 • (970) 925-4123 • email: aspengay@rof.net

Eagle County: Includes Eagle, Beaver Creek, Vail, Edwards, Avon. Active gay community and strong support from heterosexual allies.

Eagle County for Human Rights: PO Box 1384 • Edwards, CO 81632

SkiGLOV (Skiing Gays and Lesbians of Vail): Social organization. PO Box 4654, Vail, CO 81658; (970) 926-4199

Summit County: Includes Dillon, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Silverthorne, Frisco. Small, loosely knit community with a strong PFLAG.

PFLAG Summit County -- c/o Bonds, PO Box 3133 • Dillon, CO 80435

Steamboat Springs: Smallish but active and committed glbt community is connected with Craig in the Northwest corner of the state.

GLASS -- PO Box 773163, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Collegiate Peaks: Includes Buena Vista and Salida. Fun-loving and visible community in small-town America. This area is a Summer haven for outdoor and arts enthusiasts.

PFLAG Collegiate Peaks -- PO Box 4616 • Buena Vista, CO 81211

Durango: Home to the Purgatory Ski Area and Ft. Lewis College, Durango has the largest glbt and supportive community of all the ski towns (if it indeed fits that description). Home to Wild, Wild People parties that draw many from Northern New Mexico and the Lifeline newsletter for the Four Corners area.

GLBA Ft. Lewis -- PO Box 7609 • Durango, CO 81301 • (970) 247-7460

GLAD -- PO Box 1656 • Durango, CO 81302

PFLAG Durango -- PO Box 1656 • Durango, CO 81302

Telluride: Small free-spirited town with a loosely-knit glbt community. Unbelievably beautiful. Oh, and Oprah's got a home there.

Crested Butte: Connected with nearby Gunnison, which is home to Western State College. Good sized community.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance -- Western State College • Gunnison, CO 81231

Glenwood Springs: Small gay community, lovely town. Connected with folks in Rifle, Aspen, Eagle.

Field Notes

by Jonathan Kelley

Ten Days in Paradise (Well, Close To It)

This is a damn purdy state we've got here. I realized that for the first time in all my years here, I think, this past November while I was traversing Colorado as part of my new position as Field Organizer. It was my first full-scale "western/mountain" organizing trip. I met activists in Telluride, Glenwood Springs, Durango, Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction, Aspen, Salida, and the Vail Valley, and each area proved to be breathtaking in very different ways. And the vistas were easily matched by the hospitality of the residents I came in contact with. All in all, I'd call it a successful trip, most of all because it helped to bring a lot of issues into focus about the nature of this work.

More than four years have passed since the tsunami known as Amendment 2 ravaged our state, and we are still feeling the effects of it in glbt organizing. Often, it manifests itself in the burnout exhibited by activists who have put in years of (unpaid) heroic work, and yet wonder if things have changed at all. They want a chance to lead their lives. In other cases, mistrust and blame still lingers from the campaign. Or else communities — hours away from anywhere else (let alone the Metro area) — feel alienated from the decision-making processes of the statewide glbt community.

They're justified on all counts. My job is to help solve those areas of concern.

Equality Colorado is beginning our fifth year of existence, and we've been organizing on a local and statewide level for most of that time. In the Denver area, we've held community forums and conferences, made speaking presentations and formed coalitions. Our "outstate" organizing has consisted mostly of travelling, public speaking, community meetings, and the like -- as we get the chance. Now it's time to institutionalize the Field Department; to give it the necessary committed staff time and other resources.

Without question, some issues are best dealt with on a local level. Yet there also comes a time when statewide coordination is necessary — during the legislative session, for instance, or in election work or sometimes, media activism. And the network that exists loosely now will be severely taxed next time an Amendment 2 comes around. And it will. The work we do now will help determine our success and failure when it happens.

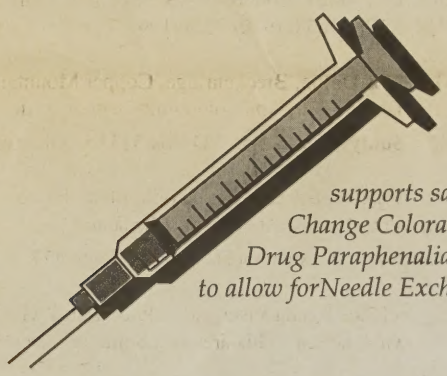
Going into "The Field"

Equality's field department exists to try to help bring the state together. We have some very strong programs (Voices of Faith, the Anti-Violence Project) that we seek to include other communities in. We want to work with communities to help expand their base, while developing progressive allies, regional coalitions, and a statewide network. Most of all, field organizing is about listening, asking questions, and sharing ideas and stories of success and failure. And lots of driving.

So what's up out there in the beautiful parts of the state? Aspen is working hard on its ski week. Grand Junction was busy preparing for a visit from the NAMES Quilt. Telluride was consumed with the opening of the "G" — their new gondola up to Mountain Village. Gunnison had just introduced an anti-discrimination bill to their city council, and Durango was thinking about doing the same. Steamboat Springs was building a fledgling community, while Montrose's community was invisible to local progressive activists. Some of the strongest activists are heterosexuals: in PFLAGs, among clergy, and on campuses. Everywhere there are seasoned activists who know the issues to work on and the strategies that are successful. They're fighting the good fight.

And they're doing it in some mighty fine settings.

Boulder County AIDS Project



supports saving lives...
Change Colorado's
Drug Paraphenalia Laws
to allow forNeedle Exchange Programs.

Contact PEERS at 455-2472 for more information.

Director's Cut

continued from page 2

Sue Anderson's Top 5 Ways to *Get Involved:*

1. Make sure you know who represents you in City Council, at the State Legislature, in Congress. Too many people I talk to don't know who is allegedly speaking (and voting) on their behalf. Find out.
2. Even if you know where your legislator (or other elected official) stands on an issue, don't assume that he/she doesn't need a phone call or letter from you. S/he may need to be thanked or may need to be reminded that there are glbt or allied constituents in the district. Many legislators tell us that they don't have any gay constituents -- we know that's not true, but they don't unless they hear from us.
3. When an important issue comes up, inform yourself first, then contact your legislator -- letters and phone calls are given more weight than email.
4. Get involved in organizations working on public policy issues — volunteer your time, take on a leadership position. Get involved and keep yourself informed.
5. Get your friends, family, co-workers to make calls, write letters and keep themselves informed. The more people working for human rights we can mobilize at the grassroots to speak out, the better off we will be.

See our Special Lobby pullout for more onthe legislative session.

Many legislators tell us that they don't have any gay constituents — we know that's not true, but *they* don't unless they hear from us.

If Someone You Care About is Gay

Maybe it's Time to COME OUT to Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays

COMING OUT IS A FAMILY AFFAIR!

Call 444-8164
Boulder PFLAG Chapter

If we give *gay* people civil rights, then *everyone* will want them!

Everyone Always Welcome
A Place to Socialize, Party and Just Be You!

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denver . colorado 80222
v: 303 757 2001
f: 303 757 2469

tia goldschlag
graphic artist

Notable Quotables

"What are you trying to protect heterosexual marriages from? There isn't a limited amount of love in Iowa. It isn't a non-renewable resource ... Heterosexual couples don't have to rush out and claim marriage licenses now, before they are all snatched up by gay and lesbian couples."

From a speech delivered on the floor of the Iowa House by state Rep. Ed Fallon in opposition to legislation prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states

"The sexual orientation of parents is not in and of itself an indicator of the overall adjustment and development of children. ... Gay and lesbian parents and same-sex couples can provide children with a nurturing relationship and a nurturing environment which is conducive to the development of happy, healthy and well-adjusted children."

Judge Kevin Chang in the *Baehr v. Miike* decision

"We must make it clear that a platform of 'I hate gay men and women' is not a way to become president of the United States."

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in The Los Angeles Times

"They offered me either the Queen or the Lincoln [bedrooms]. Being from San Francisco, the Queen intrigued me. [But] I'm doing the Lincoln. He cut me loose."

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown on spending the night at the White House

"I'm an openly gay trailer-trash Mexican. How could they not love me?"

Ice-skating national champion Rudy Galindo

"I just wish more of my fellow queers would come out sometimes. It's nice out here, you know?"

Elton John

"I do not impersonate women. How many women do you know who march around in 7-inch heels, 3-foot wigs and skin-tight outfits? Women don't wear that, *drag queens* wear that! The public persona of RuPaul is just a fabulous, eye-popping celebrity package designed to work well in front of the camera."

RuPaul to Chicago's BLACKlines

"I don't mind straight people as long as they act gay in public."

T-shirt worn by Chicago Bulls forward Dennis Rodman during a network-TV interview

"[The] principal House sponsor [of the federal anti-gay-marriage law, 'The Defense of Marriage Act'], Bob Barr of Georgia, his district office confirms, has been married three times — which raises the question of why the act doesn't contain a three-strikes-and-you're-out provision."

New York Times columnist Frank Rich

"We believe that public dissent from a teaching of the church must be done only prayerfully and with humility. However, we also believe that when we are confronted with an injustice we must not remain silent"

"In All Things Charity," a statement of conscience from 15 United Methodist ministers in opposition to the church's stands against gay ordination and blessing same-sex unions

"As I told a group of high school kids, if you were a rancher and you had a gay bull, what would you do with him? One kid said, 'I'd take the sucker to the packing plant.'"

State senator Dick Erb of Wyoming, supporting a bill to invalidate same-sex marriages in the "Equality State"

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell Me Who To Marry, Bill!"

Sign seen at a Bill Clinton rally

Equality Colorado
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Denver, CO 80203

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